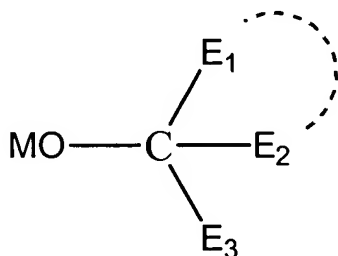


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the prior application:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An ammonium alkoxide having the formula



wherein

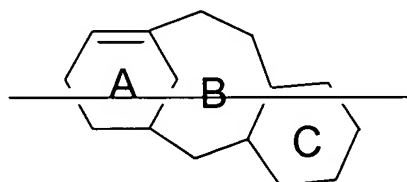
M is tetraalkylammonium;

E₁ and E₂ and the carbon to which they are attached comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic skeleton containing about 6 to 20 ring atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and

E₃ is hydrogen or a hydrocarbon.

2. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen.
3. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is tetramethylammonium.
4. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is tetrabutylammonium.
5. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is tetramethylammonium.
6. (original) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E₃ is hydrogen and M is tetrabutylammonium.

7. (currently amended) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a tricyclic taxane nucleus, and E_3 is hydrogen ~~the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B and C of~~ **structure**



8. (currently amended) The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E_1 and E_2 and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a tetracyclic taxane nucleus, and E_3 is hydrogen ~~the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B, C and the oxetane ring of~~ **structure**

